



## **Guide to Landshare for Councils**

**Landshare can be a useful resource for councils to help them deliver on their obligations, and communicate with their constituents. This guide explains how councils can use Landshare.**

### **Help with allotment waiting lists**

Council allotments often have large waiting lists, with the council left in the position of being unable to provide allotments to everyone who needs one in their area. Councils could help reduce their allotment waiting lists by:

- Directing residents on the waiting list to Landshare to find alternative sources of land
- Accessing new sources of private land that they could rent and in turn offer as council allotments
- Using the organization functionality to make the status of the allotments public, and manage all inquiries, including the ability to make group announcements

### **Help to regenerate allotments that have fallen into disuse**

There are many would-be growers plus helpers on Landshare who are willing to volunteer their labour to regenerate plots for use. Search for growers and helpers on the map to find people in your area.

### **Use Landshare to help deliver on National Indicators (NI), National Outcomes (NO) and Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI)**

Landshare can help councils to deliver on many of the NIs, NOs and BVPIs that they're tasked with, particularly in the following areas:

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Waste
- Biodiversity
- Economic output
- Active community participation
- Environmental equality
- Wellbeing
- Food security

- Education

• Greenhouse gas emissions

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- NI England - 185 - CO2 reduction from local authority operations
  - NI England - 186 - Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area
  - NO Scotland - We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.
  - BVPI Wales - (a) Percentage reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in the non-domestic public building stock;(b) (i) Percentage reduction in energy use in the housing stock; and (c) (ii) Percentage reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in the housing stock.
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○ Waste –

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- NI England - 191 - Residual household waste per household
  - NI England - 192 - Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting
  - BVPI Wales - The % of municipal waste (i) reused or recycled; (ii) composted or treated in a biological way.
  - BVPI Wales - The % of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill sites
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○ Biodiversity

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- NI England - 197 - Improved Local Biodiversity – proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented
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○ Economic output

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- NO Scotland - We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.
  - NO Scotland - Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
  - NO Scotland - Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
  - NO Scotland - We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
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○ Active community participation

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- NI England - 1 - % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
- NI England - 2 % of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood
- NI England - 3 - Civic participation in the local area
- NI England - 6 - Participation in regular volunteering
- NI England - 23 - Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and consideration
- NI England - 138 - Satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood
- NI England - 141 - Percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living

- NI England - 199 - Children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas
- NO Scotland - We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
- NO Scotland - We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
- BVPI Wales - Number of people over 65 years who are supported in the community
 

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  - Environmental equality
- NO Scotland - We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.
- NO Scotland - We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
 

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  - Wellbeing
- NI England 8 Adult participation in sport and active recreation
- NI England 50 - Emotional health of children
- NI England 55 - Obesity in primary school age children in Reception
- NI England 56 - Obesity in primary school age children in Year 6
- NI England 119 - Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing
- NO Scotland - We live longer, healthier lives.
 

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  - Food security
  - Education

### **Communicate with your constituents**

Councils can now create their own organization profile on Landshare which can be used as a council microsite for listing available land, finding growers, distributing news and enabling discussion. Start your own organisation profile that will give you the ability to:

- i. have your own URL
- ii. communicate and be recognized for the positive steps you are taking
- iii. communicate news and events
- iv. exchange ideas with residents, other councils and reputable organizations to help find solutions to barriers
- v. support your residents in this popular online space

### **Find potential partners**

Working with other organizations and growing groups could help you find ways to provide more allotments for your constituents. Search the Landshare groups and organizations to find local partners.

### **Access case studies and how to guides**

Use our case studies to take advantage of what other councils and organizations have learnt and find concrete examples of the benefits that can be achieved. The how-do guides can also help councils find out about planning, finance and legal issues around providing land for growing.

### **Create listings**

Landshare looks to hand over the control to councils once they have created their organisation. If a council wants to use it to locate all privately owned land then they can use it solely for this. Alternatively, if they want to use the site to foster more communication between residents, local organisations and themselves then it also caters for this. Landshare is not just about providing people with land to grow on, it is about getting communities to communicate with each other, about helping to tackle numerous Local Area Agreements and to provide an educational unit for people interested in where their food comes from.

### **Use Landshare to promote your land**

There is a law in every country in the UK that allows local authorities to skip the planning permission process and get more land quicker. In England and Wales Section 106 (S106) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 allows a local planning authority (LPA) to enter into a legally-binding agreement or planning obligation with a landowner in association with the granting of planning permission. The obligation is termed a Section 106 Agreement and can cover for developments such as open spaces, educational developments and health developments. The equivalent law in Scotland is Section 75 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1997 Scotland and in Northern Ireland it is Article 40 of the Planning Order 2003.

Landshare's LetsGrow functionality allows interested growers to get together and submit a formal letter to your council. This helps you to prove that there is a need for more growing space in your area, allowing you to make full use of these laws.

### **Get involved in an initiative applauded by the likes of:**

- The House of Lords
- New Local Government Network
- Food Ethics Council
- Jim Mather MSP

### **There's more that we can do**

Get in touch with the Landshare Team at [info@landshare.net](mailto:info@landshare.net) if you have any queries or about further things we can support, like:

- co-ordinating residents' interest in allotments with LetsGrow
- mapping all existing council growing spaces to help illustrate what you already achieve/ offer
- identifying derelict/ brownfield/ other disused land that could be suitable to be turned into growing use with LandSpot

**Landshare – connecting growers to those with land to share**  
**[www.landshare.net](http://www.landshare.net)**